

FAQs

1. Name any four famous Mughal rulers

- Babur
- Humayun
- Akbar, The Great
- Jahangir

2. Briefly explain sufi movement

- Looking to the religious upheaval caused by the Bhakti Movement, the Muslims initiated a parallel campaign by its saints that gave birth to the Sufi Movement in India. The terms Sufi, Wali, Darvesh and Faqir are used for Muslim saints.
- The most important contribution of Sufism is that it helped to blunt the edge of Hindu-Muslim prejudices by forging the feelings of solidarity and brotherhood between these two religious communities.
- A new language Urdu, a mixture of Persian and Hindi, also was born.

3. Explain the tomb architecture of the Mughals with an example

- The concept of tombs evolved with the Islamic architecture as burying the dead was a religious principle in Islam
- However, under the Mughals, the tomb architecture became to be more established and elaborate that it still stands as fine examples of the architecture that flourished that day.
- It was a general practice for the rulers to build their own tombs and for their loved ones while they were still alive.
- These tombs usually marked the degree of power of the ruler.
 - The tomb of Humayun, one of the great Mughal rulers is a fine example of the tomb architecture of the Mughals.
 - The Humayun's tomb marks the beginning of the major building activities of the Mughals.
 - Humayun died in 1556, and his widow Hamida Banu Begam, also known as Haji Begam, commenced the construction of his tomb in 1569, fourteen years after his death. It is the first distinct example of proper Mughal style, which was inspired by Persian architecture.

- Mirak Mirza Ghiyath, a Persian, was the architect employed by Haji Begam for this tomb. The tomb was constructed at a cost of 15 lakh rupees (1.5 million).
- The Humayun tomb is located at the centre of a huge garden complex. The garden complex is divided mainly into four compartments further being sub-divided into many square parts (char-bagh), with causeways and water channels, and water pavilions at regular intervals.
- The tomb complex is enclosed by a high rubble wall; entered through two entrance gateways, one on the west and other on the south, the latter being closed now.
- the tomb sits at the center of a plinth, about 21feet (7m) high. There are 17 arched openings in the base. The corners are chamfered
- The tomb is accessible through the arches in each side. The grave in the center is reached through the south way.
- The top of its central dome reaches 140 feet from the ground.
- The dome is double-layered; the outer layer supports the white marble exterior facing, while the inner one defines the cavernous interior volume.
- The rest of the tomb is clad in red sandstone, with white marble ornamentation. The octagonal central chamber contains the cenotaph, and the diagonal sides lead to corner-chambers which house the graves of other members of the royal family. Their openings are closed by marble screens.
- Externally each side of the tomb, decorated by marble borders and panels, is dominated by three arched alcoves, the central one being the highest .
- The dome is surrounded by chatris with different scale to proportionate with the central dome.
- The south gate rises to a height of 15.5 m and consists of a central octagonal hall flanked rectangular rooms. The first floor of the gateway has square and oblong rooms. On the outside, the gate is flanked by screen-walls with arched recesses.
- Immediately to the west of the south gateway is an enclosure measuring 146 m by 32 m, built against the exterior face of the enclosure wall. The building is a low-roofed one with 25 arched entrances and was meant to house the attendants of the royal tomb.

- Another building is also located nearby, which along with the above enclosure is a later addition. At present, the western gate is used by the visitors to enter the tomb complex. The west gate is smaller in comparison to the south gate and rises to a height of 7 m and is also double-storeyed.
- The building medium in the Humayun's Tomb is of three kinds of stones, viz., red sandstone, white marble and quartzite. The enclosure walls and the two gateways are constructed of local quartzite with red sandstone dressing & marble inlay. The stairs of platform of the main tomb is also dressed with quartzite.

4. What is Diwan – I – Am?

A large pavilion for public imperial audiences. An ornate throne-balcony is for the emperor who stands at the center .It is ornamented with stucco work, inlaid marble work.